

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for processing electronic transactions, said method comprising:
- receiving input by a server terminal from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic  
10 transaction;
- establishing a second communication port for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device; and
- 15 transferring information regarding said electronic transaction from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:
- 20 detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and
- providing an audio effect by said client device upon  
25 detection of receipt of said transaction information.
3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said audio effect comprises an alert signal effective to alert a client that said transaction information has been received, said  
30 client device further including client input means arranged for enabling a client to select characteristics of said audio effect.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select one or more tones as said alert signal.

5 5. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select a predetermined voice message as said alert signal.

6. The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein, in addition  
10 to said predetermined voice message, said input means is effective to enable said client to select from a number of audio signals to comprise said alert signal.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said  
15 electronic transaction comprises a purchase of an item by a client using said client device.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said  
electronic transaction comprises an auction transaction  
20 wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;  
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determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no  
30 longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said client device is a computer system connected to said server terminal.

5 10. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said client device is a wireless device.

11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said wireless device is a cellular device.

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12. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said wireless device is a portable device.

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13. A system for processing electronic transactions, said system comprising:

a server terminal;

a client device; and

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means arranged for selectively connecting said client device to said server terminal, said server terminal being selectively operable for:

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receiving input by said server terminal from said client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction;

establishing a second communication port for directly

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coupling said server terminal to said client device; and

transferring information regarding said electronic transaction from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port.

14. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said client device is selectively operable for:

- 5 detecting receipt of said transaction information from said server terminal; and

providing an audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information.

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15. The system as set forth in claim 14 wherein said audio effect comprises an alert signal effective to alert a client that said transaction information has been received, said client device further including client input means arranged  
15 for enabling a client to select characteristics of said audio effect.

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16. The system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select one or more tones as said alert signal.

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17. The system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select a predetermined voice message as said alert signal.

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18. The system as set forth in claim 17 wherein, in addition to said predetermined voice message, said input means is effective to enable said client to select from a number of audio signals to comprise said alert signal.

19. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said electronic transaction comprises a purchase of an item by a client using said client device.

20. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said electronic transaction comprises an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said  
5 server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a  
10 winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication  
15 port.

21. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said client device is a computer system connected to said server terminal.  
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22. The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said client device is a wireless device.

23. The system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said  
25 wireless device is a cellular device.

24. The system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said wireless device is a portable device.

30 25. A server terminal arranged for processing electronic transactions, said server terminal comprising:

means for receiving input from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction;

means for establishing a second communication port for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device; and

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means for transferring information regarding said electronic transaction from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port.

10 26. A client device for participating in an electronic transaction, said client device comprising:

input means selectively operable for inputting client-related transaction information relevant to said electronic transaction;

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means for transmitting said client-related transaction information to a server terminal over a first port, said server terminal being operable in response to said client-related transaction information for establishing a second port selectively operable for sending server-related transaction information to said client device; and

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means for selectively receiving said server-related transaction information from said server terminal over said second port.

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27. The client device as set forth in claim 26 and further including audio means operable to produce an audio effect in response to receipt of said server-related transaction information.

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28. A storage medium including machine readable coded indicia, said machine readable coded indicia being selectively operable when executed within a computer system for accomplishing the steps of:

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receiving input by a server terminal from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction;

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establishing a second communication port for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device; and

transferring information regarding said electronic transaction from said server terminal to said client device

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over said second communication port.

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